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Parents - If you haven't already read the pages on "Developing Character in Your Children," you might want to go there first before reading these pages.



### Practicing Tolerance

Let your children plan a family outing. As differences arise, use those as occasions to work through their differences by asking insightful questions.

- Help me understand..."
- Are you saying..."
- Why do you want to..."
- Can we put these two contradictory ideas together in some way?

After the outing, tell the children the real point of the outing was to help them grow in understanding each other. Ask what each learned about the others in the family.

You might choose to draw a stick figure of each member and write the comments that were made. Ground rule: be kind!



### Mystery Person

The child who is it chooses either an historical figure or someone the family knows. He should say which the person is.

The others then take turns asking questions to try to determine who the "mystery person" is. If the others haven't guessed the person's name by 20 questions, the one who is "it" has won.

## Tolerance

*vs. prejudice*

"Accepting others at different levels of maturity."

### Teaching Your Children to be Tolerant

A parent's tolerance of his children's mistakes can be their stepping stone to success. Many parents are afraid to extend tolerance for fear their children will develop poor habits and underachieve. However, when a parent seeks to understand his child's behavior, the healthy relationship that is nourished will cause the child to want to follow the parent's good standards.

Even though a child needs to grow in a certain area of character, praising even his small steps in it will give him needed encouragement to keep trying. Praising the child's good qualities seems to help develop weak qualities. When a parent waits until he sees perfection to praise his child, he brings deep discouragement to that child.

Encourage your children to be tolerant by using conflicts to discuss it: What are some good things about your siblings to be thankful for? Do you think you might do the same thing your sibling does to irritate you? Is it possible that the differences you see in your sibling create a good balance and complement your qualities?

Design some projects to develop tolerance toward those who are different:

- **make** a bouquet of multi-colored paper flowers and write the names of different races on them. Discuss how beautiful the different colors make the bouquet.
- **at mealtimes**, feature food of different countries and let the children draw or find decorations from that country.
- **let the children** walk in others' shoes by trying walking around the house blindfolded, or using a walker or wheelchair. Visit a nursing home.
- **have them read** a book about someone who was handicapped.

